



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Antibiotic Inventories

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health does not recommend that individuals or facilities stockpile ciprofloxacin or any other antibiotics.

Inappropriate use of antibiotics will lead to increased antibiotic resistance among microorganisms causing common bacterial infections and may result in serious adverse effects, including allergic reactions and interactions with other medications. Antibiotics should be selected according to the specific infection of concern.

Currently, there is little evidence of widespread stockpiling or hoarding of antibiotics in Massachusetts. Supplies of necessary antibiotics are available from wholesale and retail sources. However, if widespread, inappropriate stockpiling of antibiotics does occur, certain antibiotics or classes of antibiotics may be in short supply and not available for the treatment of infections and for a rapid initial response to bioterrorism incidents.

If a bioterrorism incident occurs in Massachusetts which results in the recommendation for prophylactic or therapeutic antibiotics for large numbers of people, the most appropriate agents will be delivered to those in need.

Health care facility pharmacies should maintain their usual and customary inventories of antibiotics, with care that these usual and customary inventories do not run low, but without excess stores. There are no recommendations for stocking antibiotics according to formulas based on hypothetical bioterrorism scenarios.

Massachusetts has benefited from an unprecedented resolve and spirit of cooperation in confronting terrorism. Successful preparation for and response to bioterrorist threats depends on the continued partnership between health care providers, and public health and public safety agencies.

For more information, see <http://www.state.ma.us/dph/topics/bioterrorism/BT.htm>, and <http://www.bt.cdc.gov>. The MDPH information line on emergency preparedness and response is **1-866-627-7968**.